

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CISL LEADER MARINI ADVOCATES NEW DC-PSI ALLIANCE

REFS: ROME 2942; ROME 3051

1. SUMMARY. SPEAKING BEFORE A MEETING OF THE 130 MEMBER CISL CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON THE EVE OF THE DC CONVENTION, NATIONAL SECRETARY FRANCO MARINI WARNED OF THE RISK THAT A SO-CALLED HISTORIC COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE DC AND PCI COULD LEAD TO A STATIC REGIME FOR TWENTY OR THIRTY YEARS WHICH WOULD DESTROY THE VITALITY OF ITALIAN SOCIETY. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE FOR CISL, ACCORDING TO MARINI, IS TO SUPPORT A NEW ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE DC AND PSI.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECOND DAY OF A THREE-DAY MEETING OF THE CISL CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS DOMINATED BY NATIONAL SECRETARY MARINI, WHO IS A PROMINENT CONTENDER TO REPLACE OUTGOING SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO
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STORTI AND WHO IS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR HOLDING ITALY'S

SECOND LARGEST CONFEDERATION TOGETHER LAST YEAR. THROUGH SKILLFUL COMPROMISE, MARINI HELPED AVOID A SPLIT BETWEEN THE STORTI FORCES, WHO WERE PRISONERS OF THE LEFT, AND THE SCALIA WING WHICH WAS ALLIED TO THE FANFANI IN THE DC. MARINI EMPHASIZED IN HIS REMARKS THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE NEWLY REPAIRED INTERNAL UNITY OF CISL AND TO RE-ESTABLISH NEW WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

3. IN VIEW OF THE WEAKNESS OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND ITALY'S INCREASINGLY SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, MARINI SAID, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT CISL COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION. WHILE OPPOSING EARLY ELECTIONS, MARINI DID NOT EXCLUDE THIS EVENTUALITY IF THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO HAVE ANOTHER YEAR OF UNSATISFACTORY GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT CISL MUST RENOUNCE ITS PONTIUS PILATE - LIKE ATTITUDE OF RECENT YEARS - THAT IS, ITS REFUSAL TO INFLUENCE THE FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT COALITIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID BEING BOUND BY THEIR DECISIONS. WHILE REJECTING A RETURN TO ITS FORMER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH REQUIRED CISL TO TAKE DIRECTION, MARINI SAID THE DC NOW NEEDS FORCES SUCH AS CISL TO CONVEY TO IT SOCIAL PRESSURES

4. SPEAKING OF THE NEED FOR THE DC CONGRESS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM CREATED BY THE GROWING COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN ITALY, MARINI ADMITTED THAT THE PCI MAY HAVE OVERCOME SOME OF ITS IDEOLOGICAL DOGMATISM. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PCI-ADVOCATED HISTORIC COMPROMISE COULD RESULT IN A REGIME WHICH WOULD BLOCK SOCIAL CHANGE AND ELIMINATE DEMOCRATIC CONTROLS. IN ORDER TO AVOID A FURTHER RISK THAT THE DC BECOME A RALLYING POINT FOR REACTIONARY FORCES, MARINI SAID CISL SHOULD SUPPORT THE REVIVAL OF AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE DC AND PSI. THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE BASED ON A REFORMATION OF THE DC AT ITS PARTY CONGRESS AND AS SUCH WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A RE-INSTITUTION OF THE OLD CENTER-LEFT RELATIONSHIP.

5. COMMENT: MARINI, WHO IS A SINCERE DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY IN ITALY, IS OBVIOUSLY THROWING HIS HAT INTO THE RING OF CONTENDERS FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF CISL. HIS REMARKS WERE FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY ANOTHER ASPIRANT, CURRENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL LUIGI MARCARIO WHO SAID TO THE PRESS, "THE NEED FOR CISL TO COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR SOME TIME." LEADERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CISL'S LEFT WING, WHO CALL THEMSELVES CATHOLICS FOR SOCIALISM SUCH AS BENTIVOLGI (METAL WORKERS), DID NOT COMMENT ON MARINI'S SPEECH. VOLPE

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